

## **New Session, New Chance for GOP Do-Nothing Congress to Stop Walking Away, Work with Democrats on Jobs**

Today marks the beginning of the second session of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, and another opportunity for Republicans to abandon their ideological agenda and focus on jobs and reducing the deficit. Instead of putting forward a comprehensive jobs plan or taking meaningful action on the deficit, so far, House Republicans have led a do-nothing Congress:

- *“The [Republican] party has yet to coalesce around... a legislative agenda that goes beyond the basic to-do list.”* [USA Today, 1/09/12]
- *“Many [House Republicans] arrived brandishing conservative credentials and great expectations, only to see their first year ‘tarnished, because we’ve accomplished little, if anything,’ one said...”* [National Journal, 1/12/12]
- *“‘It’s kind of hard to get excited when we just went through a pretty unproductive 2011,’ second-term Rep. Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) said.”* [The Hill, 1/17/12]

**Instead of taking action on jobs and the deficit, Republicans have walked away from the American people’s top priorities over and over again:**

- December 3, 2010: Republicans walked away from the Bowles-Simpson Bipartisan Fiscal Commission and abandoned a compromise that would **have** taken meaningful action to address our deficit.
- March 15, 2011: 54 Republicans walked away from a Continuing Resolution that would keep the government funded for three weeks, and GOP leadership relied on 85 Democrats to pass the bill.
- April 14, 2011: 59 Republicans walked away from a Continuing Resolution that would keep the government funded for the full year, and GOP leadership relied on 81 Democrats to pass the bill.
- June 23, 2011: Majority Leader Cantor walked away from the Biden debt limit talks. Republicans refused to abandon their ideological stance protecting millionaires and billionaires from paying their fair share, and put our nation at risk of default.
- July 22, 2011: Speaker Boehner walked away from debt limit negotiations with President Obama. By doing so, Republicans put our nation at risk of default and failed to take meaningful action on the deficit in order to protect tax cuts for the wealthy.

- August 1, 2011: 66 Republicans walked away from a bill that would have ensured our nation paid its bills, and GOP leadership relied on 95 Democrats in order to avoid default and ensure America would meet its obligations.
- November 17, 2011: 101 Republicans walked away from a conference report for the Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Transportation-HUD Appropriations bills, and GOP leadership relied on 165 Democrats to pass the bill.
- November 21, 2011: Republicans walked away from the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. Instead of working with Democrats on a plan to create jobs, reduce the deficit, strengthen entitlements, and ensure all Americans pay their fair share, Republicans refused to abandon their partisan position.
- December 16, 2011: 86 Republicans walked away from the omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2012, and GOP leadership relied on 149 Democrats to pass the bill.
- December 20, 2011: Republicans walked away from a bipartisan Senate compromise and put middle class tax cuts and unemployment insurance at risk.

**Democrats, on the other hand, are ready to work together to put more Americans back to work and take action to address our deficit in a meaningful way.**

- While Republicans haven't allowed a vote on the American Jobs Act, and haven't put forward a jobs plan of their own, Democrats are focused on the [Make It In America](#) plan – a plan based on bipartisan proposals to create jobs, boost our economy and strengthen manufacturing.
- And while Republicans continue to walk away from meaningful action on the deficit in order to protect the wealthiest Americans from paying their fair share, Democrats have been willing to put all options on the table to find a big, bold and balanced solution to our deficit problem.

**It's a new session and a new opportunity for House Republicans to live up to their pledge to put more Americans back to work and restore fiscal responsibility. We hope the GOP will abandon their ideological stance and work with Democrats to address our nation's challenges.**